

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A bag for use with an automated bag-filling apparatus, comprising:  
elongated front and back panels;  
elongated left and right side panels adjoining the front and back panels;  
a closed bottom panel joining the front and back panels with the left and right side panels;  
an open top portion; and  
an aperture proximate the top portion.
2. The bag of claim 1 wherein the aperture is in the back panel.
3. The bag of claim 1 wherein the aperture is in the back panel substantially midway between the left and right side panels.
4. The bag of claim 1 wherein the aperture is substantially circular in shape.
5. The bag of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of ventilation openings in the front and back panels.
6. The bag of claim 1, further comprising a cut-away portion in the front panel proximate the top portion to expose the aperture.
7. The bag of claim 1 wherein the side panels have elongated creases along the side panels centrally located between the front and back panels and the front panel has a crease proximate the bottom panel to facilitate folding.

8. The bag of claim 1 wherein the front and back panels and left and right side panels have a length of approximately thirty-two inches.

9. The bag of claim 1 wherein the front and back panels have a width of approximately thirteen inches.

10. The bag of claim 1 wherein the left and right panels have a width of approximately seven inches.

11. The bag of claim 1 wherein the aperture is substantially circular in shape and has a diameter of approximately 0.625 inches.

12. A method of manufacturing a bag for use with an automated bag-filling apparatus, comprising:

folding a piece of paper having elongated first and second free end portions to form elongated front and back panels and elongated left and right side panels adjoining the front and back panels;

forming left, right, front and back flaps by cutting a portion of the folded paper at a first end of the left, right, front and back panels at the folds between the left, right, front and back panels;

coupling the elongated free end portions to each other;  
folding the left and right side flaps toward each other;  
folding front and back flaps toward each other and over the left and right side flaps to form a bottom panel of the bag;

sealing the left, right, front and back flaps; and

placing an aperture in the bag at a second end opposite the first end.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein the aperture is in the back panel.

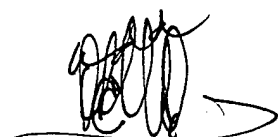
14. The method of claim 12 wherein the aperture is in the back panel substantially midway between the left and right side panels.

15. The method of claim 12 wherein the aperture is substantially circular in shape.

16. The method of claim 12, further comprising placing a plurality of ventilation openings in the front and back panels.

17. The method of claim 12, further comprising cutting away a portion of the front panel proximate the second end to expose the aperture.

18. The method of claim 12, further comprising creating elongated creases along the left and right panels centrally located between the front and back panels and the front panel has a crease proximate the bottom panel to facilitate folding.



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